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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6933
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SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
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PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

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TAGS: OITP KMDR KPAO JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - UNREST IN TIBET

¶1. LEAD STORIES: All Friday morning papers gave top play to a set of proposals made on Thursday by Prime Minister Fukuda concerning road-related taxes.

¶2. "U.S. Anxious about Relations with China over Unrest in Tibet" The business-oriented Nikkei's Washington correspondent wrote (3/28): "The Bush administration is anxious about how to maintain its relations with China following the recent unrest in Tibet. Although the American people's interest in the strife in Tibet has been increasing, U.S. government officials have only expressed concern over the issue and urged China to hold dialogue with the Dalai Lama despite the fact that the U.S. places importance on human rights problems as one of its key diplomatic agenda items. The U.S. needs China's cooperation in dealing with international affairs and its economic ties with China is deepening when concern is growing about a possible recession in the U.S. Such elements appear to lie behind Washington officials' cautious statements on Tibet."

SCHIEFFER